

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 29, 2011

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, August 15, 2011 with Commissioners, Tom Barnes, Marvin Cole, Ken Masters, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance. Leigh Morning, County Attorney was absent.

Commissioner Tom Barnes called the meeting to order, Ken Masters made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2011 meeting as presented. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marvin Cole made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2011 Joint Commissioner and Council Executive Session. Ken Masters abstained, Tom Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I-T

Randy Herbert, I-T Technician appeared before the commissioners seeking their approval and signatures to the Net-Noggin, LLC contract as previously discussed. Herbert stated, when questioned by the commissioners, that he had money in his budget for the contract. Further discussion revealed that the county council still needed to give their approval during their public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

Ken Masters made the motion to approve the rate schedule and consulting agreement with Net-Noggin, LLC. pending funding approval from the county council. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

Bill Todd, Area Plan Director, reported that Coors Consulting held a meeting regarding the recent flood study of Hodges Branch. Todd stated that the results of the flood study will not be able to shrink the flood area. Todd concluded that the information received is good for the drainage board for future use.

Ken Masters stated that a study was completed in 1982 and has again been done in 2011. Masters stated that he would like to sign off that another study is necessary to address waters coming from the North. Masters finished by stating we should not be spending any more of tax payer's dollars.

EMA

Chuck Kemker, EMA Director, reported:

- 7 new 800 mobile radios will be distributed to eligible Volunteer Fire Departments and police departments. Installation costs were included in the grant. The installation will begin as soon as the templates from district 6 arrive. The goal is to have all the radios the same across the board.

- The EMA Advisory board voted to send the monies from the 800 radio re-banding to the County Vol. Fire Departments. Each department will receive approximately \$1,097.00
- The software for the courthouse Defibrillator should be arriving soon from Cardiac Science. The updates will be done at that time
- The NIMS Cast survey that was part of the assessment was to be completed by Wednesday, August 31, 2011. In the past it had been completed by Rob Puckett. Kemker stated that he was informed by Chris Burris from District 6 that each agency needs to complete their own. Kemker questioned the commissioners if the county took steps to formally adopt NIMS County wide. This could not be verified. Kemker stated that this was necessary for all departments to be. Kemker noted that this information will be updated on the county CCR (Central Contractor Registration) that is used for grants. Ken Masters made the motion to formally adopt the NIMS standard for Rush County. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Approximately fifty (50) weather alert radios are available for low income households. Jeff Sherwood suggested that Kemker check with the township trustees and the schools for information on homes.

VACATE ALLEY'S

The commissioners rescheduled the public hearing on vacating the alley in New Salem. Ken Masters made the motion to reset the public hearing for 9:30 a.m. on September 12, 2011. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported thirty-six (36) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail.

Sherwood reported that the repair of the air conditioner in the inmate area was cheaper than expected. The final invoice with QPH \$4,182.00 will be paid from the Cum Capital Development fund.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, received approval and signing of the Unofficial Detour Reimbursement Contract of \$5,865.61 on US 52. The unofficial detour was on 100 east and 300 south. Marvin Cole made the motion to approve and sign the unofficial detour reimbursement contract. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BROWNFIELD COALITION

Commissioner Tom Barnes reported on the recent Brownfield Coalition meeting that he attended.

Barnes stated that in his opinion Rush County should not spend the money right off. The Health department is currently looking into the private sector. Three (3) areas were discussed:

the former White Felt property and a two (2) fold area behind the jail. Barnes stated that he does not support spending funds for the purpose of identifying properties that need attention when we already know that a problem already exists. Barnes continue to state that he would endorse this program if clean-up funding were included, but clean-up funds will not be a part of this grant.

COURTHOUSE

Tom Barnes reported that the Master Gardeners have contacted him regarding doing extensive landscaping on the courthouse grounds. Barnes indicated that he did inform them that the county has no funding for such an extensive project. The Master Gardeners will go to the private sector.

AUDITOR

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval of payroll claims for the pay period ending September 2, 2011 on a motion by Marvin Cole, Seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried.

Bi-Weekly claims ending August 23, 2011 were approved on a motion by Marvin Cole, seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried.

A Surety Bond for Treasurer Office deputy Cindra Humphrey was approved and signed on a motion by Ken Masters, seconded by Marvin Cole. Motion carried.

CAGIT (County Adjusted Gross Income Tax) and CEDIT (County Economic Development Income Tax) proposed rates were approved for the 2012 year on a motion by Ken Masters, seconded by Marvin Cole. Motion carried. The current 2011 CAGIT rate is 1.00% the proposed 2012 CAGIT rate will remain the same at 1.00%. The current 2011 CEDIT rate is 0.50% and the proposed 2012 CEDIT rate will remain the same at 0.50%

Adams presented the EMC (Employers Mutual Casualty) Insurance Company Statement of Values for the commissioners to approve and sign. Adams stated that she had previously forwarded to both the Jerry Sitton of the highway and Jeff Sherwood of the Sheriff department the listing to verify. Sitton and Sherwood had both given their verification. Ken Masters made the motion to sign the Statement of Values, Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB

Bill Todd questioned the commissioners about insurance coverage on the county property at the Conservation Club leased areas. Barnes informed Todd that the current lease agreement requires the "*Rush County Conservation Club*" to provide proof of liability and property insurance each year as well as their annual State report concerning their 501-C non-profit status.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Adams submitted a letter received from Raleigh Fire Dept. Fire Chief Verlin Custer. Tom Barnes reviewed the letter with those present as Adams had also presented them with a copy prior to the meeting. Raleigh Fire Dept. asked that their 2012 contract be maintained at the \$48,000.00 as it is currently for 2011. The letter stated that “.....*The department’s bays at the Mays Station that house the ambulance units is in need of major structural repair, as the ceiling-roof is spreading and falling.....*”

Barnes stated that budget changes were made to the different fire departments and it was now out of the commissioner’s hands. The council is now responsible for making any further changes. Ken Masters did voice his support of Barnes comments.

LETTER FROM CONCERNED CITIZEN

Adams submitted to the commissioners a letter received from a concerned citizen Sharon Sue Brown. Tom Barnes did read the letter to those in attendance. Brown’s letter expressed her concerns of the health, well-being, and prosperity of the citizens of Rush County. “.....*I believe there is a need for laws in place to equally protect and represent citizens, whether County or City. I believe it to be fair in comparing or creating new laws, if necessary, in order for each person to enjoy equal opportunity in a healthy environment of living.....*”

Tom Barnes responded following reading of the letter. Barnes stated that In response to county wide trash pick-up Barnes stated that a program of this nature would be of benefit, but due to the lack of funds he could not endorse it at the present time. Barnes questioned the theory of who would police the mowing of the land owner’s properties throughout the county. Barnes admitted that yes the county as a whole has a problem with unsafe buildings. Barnes continued to state that the county commissioners have no business being involved and don’t have a right to tell any man what he can do on his property. Government can only do so much.

Barnes did share his appreciation for Sharon Brown for taking the time to write a letter expressing her concerns. There were no comments from either Commissioner Masters or Commissioner Cole.

Motion to adjourn was received from Marvin Cole, Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/Tom Barnes
Tom Barnes, Chairman

/s/Marvin Cole
Marvin Cole

/s/Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor